

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of July 11, 2006 in which claims 1-28 were rejected.

Regarding the objection to claims 16-17, the claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 16-17 is requested.

Regarding the novelty rejection of claims 1-11, 13-18, 21-26 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) based on *McTiffin* (EP 0 679 042), the Examiner reads the first step of claim 1 onto *McTiffin* by stating that *McTiffin* allocates "technology-independent identifications (*unique VCI and VPI*) to a call resource of said switching element (*MNIU*)" requested by a received call, pointing to column 3, lines 22-24 and thereafter.

Evidently, the Examiner is viewing the unique VCI and VPI as being "technology-independent identifications" on account of their being standard ATM-type virtual channel and virtual path identifiers in the sense that as such they are not tied to any particular technology.

However, the claims should be interpreted in consideration of the context of the invention disclosed in the specification so that the broadest reasonable interpretation is consistent with the specification and with the interpretation those skilled in the art would reach. A review of the specification reveals that the invention is concerned with a problem that arises in switching network elements in a network environment that includes a plurality of access systems employing different access technologies with the attendant increase in complexity and maintenance of call control application increasing due to the combined use of different versions of applications in different switching techniques or different network generations. In particular, at page 2 in the first full paragraph at lines 1-9, it is set forth that an access technology beyond that disclosed in *McTiffin* would further serve to increase

the capability of cellular systems and that the new access method would have to coexist with the already existing and evolved access network. Therefore, the phrase "technology-independent identifications" needs to be understood in the context of the present specification and the problem that it addresses.

The independent claims have therefore been amended to make it clear that the method of claim 1 and the switching network element of claim 14 are for a switching methodology and a switching network element in a telecommunication network that includes a plurality of access systems employing differing access technologies and that the allocation of identifications is an allocation of "access" technology-independent identifications.

Since the *McTiffin* reference deals with a single access network exclusively, it does not involve a plurality of access systems employing differing access technologies and is inapplicable as a 35 U.S.C. 35 Section 102(b) reference against claims 1-11, 13-18, 21-26 and 28 and withdrawal of the novelty rejection based on *McTiffin* is requested.

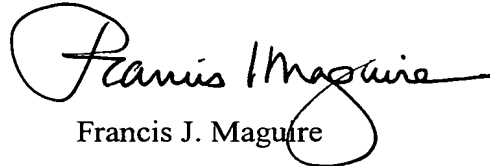
Regarding the 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) rejection of claims 12, 19-20 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentably obvious over *McTiffin* in view of *Boldt et al*, these claims are dependent upon the independent claims 1 and 14 and are patentable for at least the same reasons given above in connection with Applicant's overcoming the novelty rejection of the independent claims.

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) rejection of claims 12, 19-20 and 27 is requested.

A petition for a two-month extension of time is enclosed herewith with a check for the appropriate fee and, if for some reason, the petition is missing or the fee is inadequate, please consider this amendment to include a petition for the appropriate extension of time, and deduct the appropriate fee from the deposit

account 23-0442. However, this should be unnecessary as this amendment is accompanied by a petition and a check for the appropriate 2-month extension fee.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Francis J. Maguire". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "F".

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